



# International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

*Representing Fish and Wildlife Agencies since 1902*

Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001  
Telephone (202) 624-7890 ♦ Fax (202) 624-7891 ♦ E-mail: [iafwa@sso.org](mailto:iafwa@sso.org) ♦ Web Page: [www.iafwa.org](http://www.iafwa.org)

---

**Contact:** Rachel Brittin, IAFWA Public Affairs Director  
[rbrittin@iafwa.org](mailto:rbrittin@iafwa.org), 202/ 624-7744  
Stephanie Lundberg, Cong. Kind's Office  
[Stephanie.Lundberg@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Lundberg@mail.house.gov), 202/ 225-5506,  
**Photos Available [HERE](#)**

## WISCONSIN CONGRESSMAN KIND AWARDED FOR HIS EFFORTS TO HELP CONSERVE AND PROTECT WILDLIFE

*Kind "Teams Up" with a red-tailed hawk during a Capitol Hill event to highlight State Wildlife Grants*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 26, 2005)—Today on Capitol Hill, Representative Ron Kind (D-3<sup>rd</sup> WI) was presented with an award by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for his leadership in championing federal funding for state-based wildlife conservation under the State Wildlife Grants program, and for his legislation to protect migratory birds. He was joined at the event by a live red-tailed hawk, one of thousands of species benefiting from the conservation program.

"For many Americans the Memorial Day holiday marks the beginning of the outdoors season when people are most likely to observe and enjoy the nation's precious wildlife. As we kickoff the season, we should be conscious of the investments and efforts made to protect wildlife and in particular all that is done to prevent new listings of threatened and endangered species," said Rep. Ron Kind.

Rep. Kind was recognized by the Association's *Teaming With Wildlife* coalition, representing more than 3000 conservation groups working together to support robust programs of wildlife conservation, education, and recreation in every state. For the state of Wisconsin, as well as for his work across the country, Kind was awarded for his "...exceptional leadership in advocating state wildlife conservation funding," and "... commitment to America's wildlife (that) will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come." There is strong bi-partisan support for State Wildlife Grants funding from the White House and in both the Senate and House of Representatives, with 55 Senators and 128 members of the House, signing letters in support of the program in the 2006 budget.

Created by Congress in 2000, the State Wildlife Grants program is our nation's core program for keeping wildlife from becoming endangered by providing the funding for on-the-ground conservation projects in every state and territory. Over the last five years, Congress has provided almost \$340 million for the State Wildlife Grants program. President Bush's fiscal year 2006 Budget includes \$65 million for this priority program. Currently, a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives is already calling for increasing this funding to at least \$85 million.

In the state of Wisconsin, The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) uses State Wildlife Grants Program to fund conservation efforts such as, the development of a multi-media education initiative called *Into the Outdoors*, a half-hour, 13-week TV series for 7-12 year olds with partner Discover Wisconsin Productions, Inc. (DWP). Funding is also supporting the restoration of 200 acres of oak savanna, one of the rarest natural communities in North America, at Wisconsin's Muir Park and Observatory Hill State Natural Area. Some other Wisconsin projects funded through State Wildlife Grants Program also include several dam removal and stream restoration projects; comprehensive monitoring and public outreach efforts for birds and small mammals, with a particular focus on rare species; and the creation of several field guides and brochures describing and promoting the protection of fragile habitats. (For a more complete list of activities, see attached fact sheet. Also found at [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com))

-more-

“State Wildlife Grants is the centerpiece of a strong partnership between the federal government and state fish and wildlife agencies working to keep wildlife from becoming endangered,” said John Baughman, Executive Vice President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. “State agencies leverage these federal dollars to help restore habitat, reintroduce wildlife, and work with private landowners to help keep wildlife from declining. This is a wise use of taxpayer dollars that delivers on-the-ground results for wildlife, and helps advance the wildlife conservation goals of state agencies and the federal government.”

Despite historical successes in bringing many wildlife species back from the brink of extinction, other species have continued to decline as evidenced by the staggering numbers listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. State hunting and fishing license dollars, federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear, and motorboat fuel taxes have provided the backbone for funding the nation’s wildlife conservation programs over the past century. However, there has always been a gap in funding for species that are not hunted or fished. State Wildlife Grants has provided state fish and wildlife agencies with the resources they critically need to fill that gap.

# # #

**TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE** is a coalition of more than 3000 groups working to keep wildlife from becoming endangered by supporting robust programs of conservation, education, and recreation in every state. The coalition includes fish and wildlife managers, environmentalists, hunters and anglers, tourism and nature-related businesses, and many others who support the goal of restoring and conserving our nation’s wildlife.

**IAFWA**, founded in 1902, represents the government agencies responsible for North America’s fish and wildlife resources. IAFWA applies expertise in science, policy, economics and coalition-building to serve its members as a national and international voice on a broad array of wildlife and conservation issues.

[House of Representatives State Wildlife Grants Letter](#) (*pdf, 153 KB*)

[Senate State Wildlife Grants Letter](#) (*pdf, 128 KB*)